COAH Executive Committee Meeting: March 14th, 2014

I. Approval of Minutes from February 14th, 2014

II. Proposals

   A. Course Additions/Modifications
      1. ART 3011
      2. ART 3012
      3. ART 3060
      4. ART 3065
      5. ART 4009
      6. ART 4010

   B. Program Modifications
      1. Bachelor of Music with a Major in Performance

III. New Business

   A. “World and Words” week, submitted as an information item by Chad Davidson (see Figure One)

IV. Old Business

   A. Angela Insenga corrected a misspelling of a committee member’s name in the minutes approved in February and resubmitted them to Jessica Dunham.

IV. Announcements

V. Adjournment
Figure One: Dr. Davidson's e-mail to the steering committee—FYI

Dear all,

I am pleased to announce that UWG will be sponsoring a week-long "World and Words" environmental awareness event this fall. A collaborative project between UWG's School of the Arts, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, the Sustainability Council, the Film Studies Minor, and the Humanities Symposium, World and Words will take place from Saturday, October 25, to Saturday, November 1. The week will culminate in our campus's annual Interdisciplinary Conference, which runs from Thursday to Saturday of that week, but we imagine a weeklong series of events showcasing the confluence of art and the environment, social activism and sustainability.

A word about the conference: we have two keynote speakers—marine biologist James McClintock and poet Adam Vines, both from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. McClintock is a world-renowned scientist and activist who works primarily with Antarctica. Vines helped him edit his book Last Antarctica and traveled there with him last fall. They will speak about the ways in which art and science can combine to form powerful social and political tools, and will also participate in the Humanities Symposium with Dean Hendricks and others from the university. I have multiple copies of Last Antarctica, if you are interested in perusing it. The CFP for the conference is attached, and we hope that you will consider participating (either through submitting a proposal to the conference or attending a panel or two).

For the rest of week, we are entertaining some of the following initiatives: class tie-ins (assigning ecocritical texts in fall courses); earthworks art installations and exhibitions around campus (and even at select sites in the city, most notably the lake); screenings of ecocritical documentaries such as Rivers and Tides (on earthworks artist Andy Goldsworthy) and Food, Inc. (on the dangers of ever-increasing homogeneity in food crops); community outreach, for example Lake Carroll or Macintosh clean-up projects coordinated by the university; events on the Greenbelt; and much more.

We are currently looking into partnerships with the city, too, which might include environmental fairs of live music, produce from local farmers, art installations, etc. We will keep you posted on those developments. In the meantime, we would appreciate your drumming up support through course tie-ins this fall. We are not mandating any one text or strategy for implementation but rather asking you to consider including topics in your fall courses that engage the environment, that confront issues of sustainability, and that participate in this important dialog. (We will be happy to visit with individual colleges and/or departments, should they desire more information or involvement.)
Given the importance of sustainability and responsible energy use in the university’s Strategic Plan, World and Words could serve as a powerful catalyst. Help us make the event as meaningful as possible.

Let me know your thoughts,